(4) Accord the highest priority to seed production so that adequate supply of quality seeds of relevant major crops and fodder is available at reasonable prices and at the right time. This is necessary to improve seed replacement rates, which help reduce yield gaps. There should be close liaison between State Governments and State agricultural universities or ICAR institutions for ensuring production of seeds of varieties suitable for each agro climatic region. Public Private partnership between SAUs, State departments concerned and public sector for varietal development can be considered.

(5) Undertake a major expansion and revamping of State agricultural extension systems. This will involve the State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras; and include support animal resources development, expansion of soil testing capacity in each district and facilities to test input quality. The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode should be used wherever possible.

(6) Expedite signing of the MoU (if not done so far) for early implementation of the Vaidyanathan Committee recommendations and set monitorable deadlines for meeting the commitments so that the cooperative credit structure can be revamped.

(7) Encourage development of modern markets by completing the process of amending the APMC Act and notify the rules thereunder, and also encourage development of linkages to markets through a variety of instruments including co-operatives of farmers, contract farming and other means preferred by the States. The process of notifying rules under the amended APMC legislation should be completed during 2007-08.

Concrete proposals to implement these steps will be spelt out in detail as quickly as possible both by the Central Government and by the State Government."

Contribution of States in core sector plans

2013. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether States are expected to contribute some share of the plans, especially in core sectors like agriculture, they draw up to access the Centra! funds;

(b) if so, whether guidelines exist that States should follow for credible strategies and programmes for achieving their targets in respect of production of foodgrains, pulses, edible oil, etc.; and

(c) what are the national targets for production of foodgrains, pulses, edible oil, etc. for the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) For Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the State Governments provide their matching share of funds as per stipulated guidelines of these programmes. Besides this, State Governments also implement schemes for agriculture in State Plans.

(b) Before schemes of State Governments relating to agriculture are sanctioned, strategies are discussed to achieve targets laid down. These are also discussed at the time of the Rabi and Kharif Conferences.

National Targets for production of various crops for 2007-08 are as under:

Total Foodgrains	221.50 Million Tonnes
Pulses	15.50 Million Tonnes
Oilseeds	30.00 Million Tonnes

Dairy and animal husbandry industry in Assam

2014. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any policy for development of animal husbandry and dairy industry in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total funds allocated and actually released and utilized by Government for the same during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) As a matter of policy, the Department earmarks 10 per cent of its Annual Plan outlay for implementation of schemes related to animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries in the North Eastern Region, including Assam.

(c) The Department does not make State-wise allocation under any scheme. However, funds are released to States on the basis of availability, viability of proposals received and past utilization by them. Details of schemes implemented in Assam for development of animal husbandry and dairying, releases made and funds utilized by the State during the last three years are given in Statement.

Statement

Funds released to the State of Assam for development of animal husbandry and dairying

(Rs. in lakh)

SI. No.	Name of the scheme	Funds released during the last three years	Funds utilized
1	2	3	4
I	AH SECTOR		
1	National Project for Cattle & Buffalo Breeding Programme	549.00	187.00